

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-23 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 33 and 34 are currently canceled without prejudice. Claim 24, 28, 32, 35, and 39 are currently amended. Claims 25-27, 29-31, and 36-38 are previously presented. Claims 24-32 and 35-39 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 24-26, 29, and 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(a) as anticipated by applicant's disclosure at page 2, lines 18-27. The Office also notes page 1, lines 19-24 but does not reject the claims on that basis.

These portions of applicant's specification describe the prior art as using a sequential printing process. For example, page 2, lines 18-21 describe the prior art as based on a "sequence of the following tasks" after which it lists downloading, loading, processing, printing, and I/O. Figure 1 illustrates this, showing each of these listed tasks as being performed in sequence.

In contrast, amended claim 24 recites in part:

wherein one or more of the acts of downloading the second compressed piece of data on the first thread, decompressing the second compressed piece of data on the second thread, applying image processing to the second piece of memory data on the third thread, and sending the second processed piece of memory data on the fourth thread are performed in parallel with one or more of the acts of decompressing the first compressed piece of data on the second thread, applying image processing to the first piece of memory data on the third thread, sending the first processed piece of memory data on the fourth thread, and transferring the first piece of print-ready data on the fifth thread...

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter recited in claim 24 is neither disclosed nor suggested in the application's specification at page 1 or 2.

Also in contrast, amended claim 32 recites:

5 A computer-implemented method comprising:
 applying image processing to pieces of memory data to
 provide processed pieces of memory data;
 sending the processed pieces of memory data through a print
 driver to a print spooler to provide pieces of print-ready data; and
10 transferring the pieces of print-ready data through an
 input/output to a printer effective to enable the printer to print one or
 more images associated with the pieces of memory data,
 wherein two or more of the acts of applying, sending, and
 transferring are performed in parallel and on different threads, and
15 wherein the acts of applying, sending, and transferring are
 responsive to no more than one user interaction.

Applicant respectfully submits that no such method is disclosed or suggested in the application's specification at page 1 or 2.

20 For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 24 and
32 are allowable over the alleged Applicant Admitted Prior Art. Dependent
claims 25-26 and 29 depend from claim 24 and are allowable by virtue of this
dependency. Moreover, these claims recite features that, when taken together with
those of claim 24, define methods not disclosed by the alleged Applicant Admitted
25 Prior Art.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 24-27 and 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being
30 unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,426,799 to Okimoto et al. (Okimoto) in view of

U.S. Pat. No. 6,982,801 to Saito (Saito) further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,775,705 to Maeda (Maeda).

Claims 35-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okimoto in view of Saito further in view of Maeda and still further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,025,923 to Kageyama et al. (Kageyama).

Claims 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okimoto in view of Maeda.

Claims 35-37 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Office's alleged "Applicant's admitted prior art" in view of Kageyama.

Applicant amends independent claims 24, 32, and 35 to facilitate prosecution and without conceding the propriety of the Office's rejections. Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 24, 32, 35 are allowable.

Dependent claims 25-27 and 29, and 36-38 depend from claims 24 and 35, respectively, and are allowable by virtue of this dependency, as well as their own recited features in combination with a claim on which they rely.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 28 and 39 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Office for indicating the allowability of these claims. Applicant amends claims 28 and 39 to place them in independent form.

Conclusion

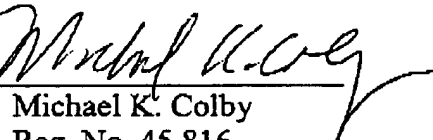
The pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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